

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A sanitary washing apparatus comprising:

a human body washing nozzle ~~device~~ having a discharge port that discharges washing water for washing the human body, ~~and body; and~~

a nozzle ~~cleaning device~~ cleaner positioned externally of the human body washing nozzle, the nozzle cleaner comprising an instantaneous heating device configured to heat at least one of washing water and vapor while the at least one of washing water and vapor flows from an inlet of the instantaneous heating device to an outlet of the instantaneous heating device, the nozzle cleaner that sterilizes being configured to spray the at least one of washing water and vapor, which has been heated, onto at least an outer surface of the discharge port of the human body washing nozzle ~~device~~ so as to sterilize at least an outer surface of the human body washing nozzle adjacent the discharge port by high-temperature cleaning.

2. (Canceled).

3. (Currently Amended) The sanitary washing apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the nozzle ~~cleaning device~~ cleaner discharges washing water having a flow rate of not less than about 0.3-~~litters~~ liters per minute from the discharge port.

4. (Original) The sanitary washing apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the temperature of the heated washing water is not less than 55°C.

5. (Original) The sanitary washing apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the temperature of the heated washing water is not more than 100°C.

6. (Canceled).

7. (Withdrawn) The sanitary washing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the nozzle cleaning device cleans the human body washing nozzle device by a mixed fluid of at least two of the vapor, the heated washing water, and unheated washing water.

8. (Currently Amended) The sanitary washing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

the human body washing nozzle ~~devi~~ee comprises a plurality of nozzles that respectively spray the washing water, and

the nozzle ~~cleaning device~~ cleaner has a discharge port that simultaneously cleans the plurality of nozzles.

9. (Withdrawn) The sanitary washing apparatus according to claim 1, comprising

a state detector that detects a state where the sanitary washing apparatus is employed, and

a control device that allows the human body washing nozzle device to be cleaned by the nozzle cleaning device in a case where the state detector detects that the sanitary washing apparatus has not been employed yet.

10. (Withdrawn) The sanitary washing apparatus according to claim 9, further comprising

a toilet seat on which the human body is to sit,

the state detector comprising a seating detector that detects the presence or absence of seating of the human body on the toilet seat.

11. (Withdrawn) The sanitary washing apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the state detector comprises an optical detector that optically detects the presence or absence of the human body on the toilet seat.

12. (Withdrawn) The sanitary washing apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the state detector comprises a load detector that detects the presence or absence of the human body on the toilet seat by a load on the toilet seat.

13. (Withdrawn) The sanitary washing apparatus according to claim 9, further comprising

a toilet cover,

the state detector comprising

a toilet cover opening/closing detection device that detects the opening/closing of the toilet cover.

14. (Canceled).

15. (Currently Amended) The sanitary washing apparatus according to claim 14, claim 1, wherein the human body washing nozzle device discharges the washing water heated by the instantaneous heating device to the human body from the discharge port.

16. (Currently Amended) The sanitary washing apparatus according to claim 14, claim 15, further comprising

~~another heating device~~ the instantaneous heating device comprising first and second heaters, that heats washing water,

~~the nozzle cleaning device discharging cleaner comprising a spray device configured to discharge the washing water heated by the other heating device second heater to the human body washing nozzle device from the spray device.~~

17. (Withdrawn) The sanitary washing apparatus according to claim 14, wherein

the nozzle cleaning device further comprises

a flow rate adjustment device that adjusts the flow rate of the washing water supplied to the heating device,

the flow rate adjustment device spraying the washing water in a gas state and/or a liquid state from the spray device by the adjustment of the flow rate of the washing water.

18. (Withdrawn) The sanitary washing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a notification device that notifies, after a cleaning operation performed by the nozzle cleaning device is terminated, that the cleaning operation is terminated.

19. (Withdrawn) The sanitary washing apparatus according to claim 18, wherein

the notification device makes notification that the cleaning operation is terminated after an elapse of a predetermined time period since the cleaning operation performed by the nozzle cleaning device was terminated.

20. (Withdrawn) The sanitary washing apparatus according to claim 18, wherein

the notification device makes notification that the cleaning operation is terminated when the temperature of the human body washing nozzle device is lowered to a predetermined temperature.

21. (Withdrawn) The sanitary washing apparatus according to claim 18, wherein

the notification device stops the notification that the cleaning operation is terminated after an elapse of a predetermined time period since the cleaning operation performed by the nozzle cleaning device was terminated.

22. (Withdrawn) The sanitary washing apparatus according to claim 18, wherein

the notification device comprises a display device that visually makes notification that the cleaning operation is terminated.

23. (Withdrawn) The sanitary washing apparatus according to claim 18, wherein

the notification device comprises an sound output device that makes notification by sound that the cleaning operation is terminated.

24. (Withdrawn) The sanitary washing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a scale adhesion preventer that prevents the adhesion of a scale in the nozzle cleaning device.

25. (Withdrawn) The sanitary washing apparatus according to claim 24, wherein

the scale adhesion preventer comprises
a scale inhibitor supplier that supplies a scale inhibitor for inhibiting the adhesion of the scale to the washing water supplied to the nozzle cleaning device.

26. (Withdrawn) The sanitary washing apparatus according to claim 25, wherein the scale inhibitor includes a crystal form changing material for changing the crystal form of the scale and/or a crystal growth inhibiting material for inhibiting the crystal growth of the scale.

27. (Withdrawn) The sanitary washing apparatus according to claim 25, wherein the scale inhibitor includes a scale dissolving agent for dissolving the scale.

28. (Withdrawn) The sanitary washing apparatus according to claim 24, wherein

the scale adhesion preventer comprises a cation exchange resin provided such that it can come into contact with the washing water supplied to the nozzle cleaning device.

29. (Withdrawn) The sanitary washing apparatus according to claim 24, wherein

the scale adhesion preventer comprises
a magnetism generator that applies magnetism to the washing water supplied to the nozzle cleaning device.

30. (Withdrawn) The sanitary washing apparatus according to claim 24, wherein

the scale adhesion preventer comprises
an ultrasonic wave generator that applies ultrasonic waves to the washing water supplied to the nozzle cleaning device.

31. (Currently Amended) The sanitary washing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

the nozzle ~~cleaning device~~ cleaner further comprises

a washing instruction unit that issues an instruction to start the cleaning operation performed by the nozzle cleaning device.

32. (Previously Presented) The sanitary washing apparatus according to claim 31, wherein the washing instruction unit comprises a remote control device that issues an instruction to start the cleaning operation by remote control.

33. (Withdrawn) The sanitary washing apparatus according to claim 31, further comprising

a disabling unit that disables the washing instruction unit,

in the washing instruction unit, the instruction to start the cleaning operation performed by the nozzle cleaning device being disabled by operating the disabling unit.

34. (Currently Amended) The sanitary washing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the nozzle ~~cleaning device~~ cleaner starts the cleaning operation ~~for each~~ at predetermined time intervals ~~interval~~.

35. (Currently Amended) The sanitary washing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein at least a part of the human body washing nozzle ~~device is~~ formed of comprises a heat-resistant material.

36. (Original) The sanitary washing apparatus according to claim 35, wherein the heat-resistant material includes stainless steel.

37. (Currently Amended) The sanitary washing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein at least a part of a surface of the human body washing nozzle device is subjected to water repellent processing.